

Appln. No. 10/500,989
Amdt. dated August 25, 2006
Reply to Office Action dated May 25, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 1. This sheet will replace the originally filed sheet with Fig. 1. In Fig. 1, the reference sign "2" has been added.

Attachment: (1) Replacement sheet

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

The drawings and the specification were objected to since the drawings did not include the reference sign “2” which is mentioned in the description. Fig. 1 has been amended herein to include this reference sign.

The specification was further objected to for inclusion of an unrecognized character before “X perpendicular” on page 18, line 24. The unrecognized character (“□”) was originally included in the specification as the result of a typographical/formatting error. The specification has been amended appropriately to change this unrecognized character to “Δ”.

Claims 1, 3 and 4 were objected to for inclusion of the reference sign “2” which was not shown in the drawings. The claims have been amended to delete the reference signs, thereby rendering the objection moot.

Claims 1–7, 10, 12, and 15 were objected to for inconsistent use of the terms “jet ejection nozzles” and “nozzles.” The claims have been amended appropriately to obviate the objection.

Claims 6–16 were objected to for use of “Print head” instead of “Twin-nozzle print head” as set forth in the preceding claims. The claims have been amended appropriately to obviate the objection.

Claim 6 was objected to for insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation of “said inkjet”. Claim 6 has been amended to replace the term “inkjet” with “jet” which has antecedent basis in the claim.

Claims 8, 10, 13 and 14 were objected to for informalities. The claims have been amended to replace “ink drops” with “charged drops” as indicated by the Examiner.

Claim 11 was objected to for informalities and has been amended accordingly to obviate the objection.

Claim 16 was objected to for informalities. The term “gutter” has been replaced with “recovery gutter” as indicated by the Examiner.

Claim 14 was objected to for insufficient antecedent basis for the term “said first jet.” The claim has been amended appropriately to overcome the objection.

Claims 1–4 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 4,990,932 to Houston. For the following reasons, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the rejection, the Examiner indicates that the “Axis of nozzle has not been defined to relate to any structure claimed...” Therefore, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the claimed “axis” of each nozzle is an “ejection axis” of the nozzle.

Further, regarding claim 1, Houston does not teach “wherein the *ejection axes* of said inkjet ejection nozzles *converge* at a point located on an axis of a single inlet orifice of the single recovery gutter” as required. The nozzles of Houston do not have ejection axes that converge. Rather, Houston teaches that the two nozzles allow the production of droplets which, *when they are deflected*, may be directed to the same gutter (see, e.g. column 6, lines 39–41). In contrast, according to the present invention, as set forth in claim 1, the droplets are directed to the same gutter when they are not deflected, namely when they follow their axes of ejection. Thus, the nozzles of Houston do not meet the “converge” limitation of claim 1, since their ejection axes do not converge. Since every limitation of the claims is not taught by the reference, claim 1 and its dependent claims 2–4 and 11 are not anticipated by Houston.

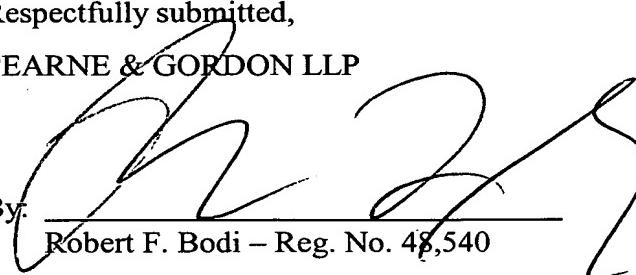
Claims 5, 6 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Houston in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,381,513 to Ebi and U.S. Patent No. 4,338,613 to Cruz-Urbie. Claims 7–14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Houston in view of Ebi and Cruz-Urbie, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,758,555 to Bajeux. Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over

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Houston in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,761,953 to Heigeson et al. Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Houston in view of Ebi and Cruz-Urbie, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,481,288 to Keeling et al. None of the above-cited references teaches or suggests that converging ejection axes, of which Houston is deficient. Thus, even if the references were combined as cited, no possible combination of these references would teach or suggest every limitation of claim 1 as required. Therefore, claims 5–10 and 12–17, which depend from claim 1, are patentable over the cited prior art.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 36906.

Respectfully submitted,
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